

- R
- 24p10m1c309
- 1) Charlotte Mason's
letters to Mrs. Franklin
1897 - 1922.

Copenhagen
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2

I enjoyed Holland with its many street pictures as well as its pictures in galleries. I think the Dutch have that saving grace of humour which I seem to miss among these profoundly serious and most excellent Danes. Of the various cities we have visited, I think Lübeck delighted me most, with its quaint Greek Gothic and its Memling pictures. . . . We have met nobody very interesting but then the hour for Dutch Table d'Hôte appears to be from four to seven, so we could not give up the afternoon to eating our dinner. We are in a small pension here; in spite of the American visitors, it is a genuine Danish interior, beautiful Danish embroideries, chiefly in two shades of blue on the table and elsewhere, blue Danish china to match, beautiful brass teapots and coffee pots and urns; most notable house-wifely arrangements in every way and much Danish talk, always in a rather sad monotone. The air here is a luxury, so elastic and delicious and the sea and the big ships within ten minutes of us. . . .

You have "done" the Dutch cities have you not? Of most of the painters one's impression remains the same, only none but Rembrandt strikes me in quite a new way. I had thought of his wonderful technique, chiarascuro and so on; what has struck me this time is the reverent and gentle way in which he deals with the personalities of his subjects. You feel that every man has greatness in him somewhere because the artist has revealed so much in apparently commonplace men.

Miss Armitt has brought her press and botany books, but we have not been near plants yet. I hope we shall in Norway.

14p2 cmc309

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We must not be swamped by "women workers". We are not women workers; our society much more important because with definite aims: They a mere collection of units destined not to live: Socialistic society of Maurice Kingsley swamped in this way: joined British Association as "Group T", in consequence, do nothing.

Besides, an Annual Conference is an Annual Conference and can't suspend itself. Besides, again, the people ~~thaxpeople~~ who attend are not as a rule the people we appeal to, young mothers and fathers in the act of bringing up their children.

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- remembering that I have had to fight every inch of the way we have come and that I sit like Botticelli's Fortitude, sword in hand, dreading unspeakably a possible fray.

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Here is goodness and virtue! A long synopsis of our teaching - copies of which I have sent to Miss Armfield for each member of the Committee: That is what your last letter produced. Now you will have a foundation for any talking or writing you may have to do.

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I am ever so glad you like the Statement. Yes I know that there will be tiresome work on hand re Statement but I am less anxious to carry the point than that each member of the Committee should feel that there is a "Yea" or "Nay" to be said. It is drifting which I think is so damaging; that is

* The Synopsis /

24p3umc39

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22.3.1904.

[7]
You see, the whole object (of the statement) in view is
that the Committee on behalf of the Union should make a
confession of faith. Of course there will be dissidents,
even on the Committee, and certainly in the Union; but
every body contains those who differ and there is no compulsion
or pressure whatever. Nor is anything new advanced. The
principles are those, which, as a Nursing Mother (may I say
so?) as well as Founder of the Union, I have sustained it with
from year to year, which contain all the vital truth is
possesses and, so far as I can see, constitute its raison d'être
. . . A great gain has come to me in the shape of those members
who, seeing the whole scheme of thought in a bird's eye view,
became the first adherents of the whole. I . . . am deeply
grateful to them and value their enthusiasm more than I can say.
It is a great thing when others see eye to eye with you about
matters which are as your very life. . . . It will be a joyful
and delightful thing to see the P.N.E.U. such an educational
society as the world has never known; and there really is,
I think, something to be said in favour of a person of even
average intelligence who has given about forty years of incessant,
consecutive progressive thought to the one subject of Education
and who has tested every point laid down by many experiments and
much investigation of principles.

27.8.1904.

- the Child as a Person will be the very crux for our
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I feel a horrid person for talking to you as I did this morning - How I wish I had no more to do with what Madge calls "the principles" than anybody else has - then I could talk coolly - but as a matter of fact I really have no more to do with it than Sir Isaac Newton has to do with the falling of apples! Bearing this in mind you will understand that the loyalty I talk about is that of persons working together in a common cause. But I know your generosity would absolve me from the horridness of making personal claims.

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We have had our inspection "The Great O.B." is old, you naturally call him an old man and he is passé in the sense that he is developing certain cranks but he is intellectually alive and alert to his finger-tips and is well worth the (heavy) cost. His keen interest in every subject, (except Maths and Handicrafts) and his great knowledge of all and each was a most valuable stimulus to the House - made us all more in love than ever with knowledge.

1910 - To Mrs. Franklin on her birthday.

7 / May God be with you, dearest, through the day and through the year As for becoming at all better, more satisfactory to oneself as the years go on, I don't find any of that pleasure! But don't you think one becomes more and more able to say "Whom have I in heaven but Thee and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison with Thee."

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Like everyone else, I say with secret joy "How the weeks fly" I watch the clock to see how soon anything and everything will come to an end. Like you, I am not a bit sorry for people killed in trying to save others or in battle, or even in accidents, not that I think death is relief for everyone, but is just a going on, in, so to speak, a change of garments. But, not like you, I take real pains to go on living and I'll tell you why.

Miss Sumner has been having a most successful Picture Show in Liverpool. . . her pictures sell and the newspapers call her a post impressionist with lavish praises.

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14p6cm309

1912.

I hope she will present the doctrine that a fully employed intelligence results in nervous stability. It seems to me it is a doctrine the world should be the better for, it is one I have had much at heart for years but I have not had such a striking evidence of the truth as came under Dr. Webb's notice at Winchester.

21. 3. 1912. (before the Winchester Children's Gathering.)

How splendidly everything is going! Miss Parish sent me a whole stack of "Rescripts" this morning to look at, all so wise and judicious, I believe you are going to do a quite perfect thing. The card is lovely - I am glad you were able to get the name of the School in and every time I read the motto I like it better and better. It is beautiful and most appropriate. How good the programme is! I am amused to see that you have allowed me a whole hour to talk in but do you know I think you were quite right - twenty minutes is as long as people will care to listen. You see the children will be there and the Mothers will be longing to be doing something with them. However, I shall have many things to say re the school and you must use your discretion about having it all read.

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(After Winchester Gathering)

All I hear about the children is too moving for words and your organisation is simply magnificent. The whole thing was delightfully impersonal, indeed I seem to have been the only intrusive personality. Your thought of Winchester as a place was entirely right. The Children's Gathering seems to me to have given point and meaning to all our work. Is it so?

I'm afraid to ask how you are - or if there is anything of you left. . . .

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d/ O.B. (Oscar Browning the examiner) has just gone and has given us an admirable exam. He heard each student read three passages in each of the four languages - a very long business. They did some difficult translation into French and unseems in each language. To the lessons too, he gave great attention and - he lectured to the students on Montessori! (You know he has been living in Rome). They were not a bit

14p7cm389

convinced and I think neither was he by the time the lecture was over, though I listened politely! However I had said a few things before.

Our big tea-fight went off very well and they did the play very much as you saw it.

1913.

e) She has not the art of resting or of reading. The two things are synonymous are they not? I am persuading her to read Jane Austen. It is not freedom in education that is wanted but knowledge.

Feb. 1913. (P.U.S. Examination)

The Examiners School Report has just come in and he rates the unsatisfactory papers as one per cent.! and it is only really good work that is regarded as satisfactory.

No school anywhere could furnish such a record and I feel more and more ashamed that we should be keeping all this good thing to ourselves. We must make it national, quite independent of us - for we have already almost more than an organisation can manage. You will have to talk to teachers like anything! but alas, we can't get any outside help. The two enclosures you sent me are cheering but dead against us - It isn't freedom in education we want, we do as we are bid, but Knowledge.

May 1913.

Now please don't make me waste time in talking politics again!! Of course I care and care intensely. Also of course, reasonable persons are not carried away by every wind of doctrine.

Also of course you are a darling.

June 1913.

The enclosed from Mrs. Steinthal will interest you, the difficulty will be to get those mistresses to realise that mere reading is for delight but not so much for education.

14p8cm309

September 1913.

Mr. Burrell is wearing himself out upon us and is quite splendid. The students, I am told, delight in his teaching and in him especially as "the candid friend"

Travel for me has to be very much conditioned alas, though I can get through a great amount of work, an unusual amount, in my own quiet way, I must recognize my limitations and that I am non-visiting King-Log! and so you must be dreadfully good and make up by coming to me.

December 1913.

It is snowy and beautiful here to-day and we have had a stimulating drive. K - has dealt with about sixty letters daily and papers and "P.R." and - and -! And long laborious letters to two teachers who seem to be going to take up P.U.S. I don't want to attempt anything more than these few Yorkshire schools which may take it up. If they try it in earnest for a year, I think we may set the ball rolling, and they will have to invent their own organization - but that is a long way in the future, if it come at all.

1914.

The students are at the moment doing their last papers and tomorrow they go. Last night V.F. and I said many words of wisdom re time, money, clothes, the art of living in other people's houses, etc., etc., backing it all up with passages out of all the horrid letters we have ever had! Poor dears, it is enough to make them throw up the ball.

- "Chiefly what I wish for myself - increase in the knowledge of God." (New Year Wish)

June 1914?

We have had letters from four Bradford school mistresses after Mrs. Steinthal's meeting. . . . but only two schools have positively joined yet.

24p90mc309

October 1914.

I have not yet got over the exquisite joy of being at home!
I really did not know how much I felt the sort of alien atmosphere - people were very kind indeed to us but always one knew that their thoughts were not our thoughts. A hostile country, we have found out, is a bitter experience even when you are perfectly comfortable.

November 1914.

To let you go for another week is horrid! But - the Belgians have come - a houseful next door.

November 1914.

Professor Campagnac is a most admirable examiner, patient, critical, just. The students and the mistresses delighted in him as an examiner because they trusted him.

1915.

One of my little secrets: "He maketh the barren woman to keep house and to be the joyful mother of children" (my dear 'Bairn').

1916.

I have just been reviewing books - a horrid labour.

(Saviour of the World)

Do you mind my asking you to read again Vol. II of the little red books pp. 71-76 and Vol. III pp. 106-117. I have tried to say there in a very crude way something of what I mean. (I know you too receive Jesus as "a teacher sent from God" and that is all the argument requires). But I want to tell you why I feel I must go on living as long as I am allowed. I do not look for anything in the way of punishment or reward or compensation more than of the sort I get here - with the one vast exception of "life more abounding," that is, I think God-knowledge, God consciousness.

But there will be there

So much to do

So much to know

So much to see

So much to love

At the present time people can only see, know, do, love, as they are prepared, and I have a notion we have to begin the things in the flesh. We shall go on with it in the spirit. All the people we shall meet we ought to know, realise, first, all the flowers in the world - all the stars in the universe (and I know no astronomy to speak of!) Of course "His servants shall serve Him" always in all manners and we don't know which is first or last of the ways, you remember Browning's Lazarus, how intensely insignificant things attracted him.

I shouldn't wonder if this is the sort of Gospel our age is waiting for and we are so sick waiting that we play like tired children at a fair.

January 1916.

At last the wind has abated and "Richard's himself again" and I am doing things and first writing to you to wish you great blessings in the New Year, chiefly what I wish wish mostly for myself, "Increase in the knowledge of God."

August 1916.

I have had rather a bad time here and a very busy one largely about that "plan of campaign" of which Miss Parish has written to you fully She was able, too, to tell me your mind about it all so that I feel we are united for a great effort which is laid upon us because we are the only people who are able to give what the country is crying for.

November 1916.

How I long for you to see Drighlington etc. Fancy Miss Ambler has had 47 visitors since the summer.

January 1917.

Next about the Conference programme - I think we may as well lie low while we have this big thing in hand. We want to have all our energies at command. What we want to do now is to impress each of our Branches and all the old students with the sense that they are Stewards of Education in their several neighbourhoods. We shall think out ways and means by and bye.

March 1917.

There are two things we want for the college and school - one: that the College Certificate should be recognised for elementary schools. I know some of our students would long to teach in them, though alas we are at our wits end to supply the family demand - indeed we can't do it.

The other thing we want is the recognition of our Final V or VI form exam as qualifying for the entrance to training for certain professions - but these two can wait. This work is a great happiness and relief, is it not?

January 1918.

As a reformer, I am a free lance, tacitly opposed to things as they are. . . . (comparing the College with others), (Criticisms) come from the difference between a Training College and others - those that you mention do not profess to train.

January 1918.

Some day we hope to see each P.N.E.U. Branch a sort of centre for the spiritual (including intellectual) profit of all classes in its neighbourhood.

September 1918. Alluding to the ^{qualifications for} Entrance ~~for~~ to the House of Education.

87 - We should lose many of our best students by doing so - for instance, half our present students have passed some exam and the other half have not and the latter are much the better students. These exams mean cram and leave the students drained out.

August 1919.

View 1 We have been sorely distressed re house-room and I have had to buy Fairfield and the next house to secure a place, and this after all the lean years of the war. You will like to know that the College is full for next year.

1921.

"Heaps of elementary children doing such good work."

"Did I tell you how much I rejoice over our first County School Parents' Branch?"

24p12 cmc309

1922.

What a time you had among the Alpine flowers! I know something of the joy of it for many years ago before you were born or thought of, I spent some early spring weeks at the Kaltbad (Rigi) with some friends. After forty years I see and smell and luxuriate - but I did not see the Soldanella . . .

Science has done nothing to confirm the "rut" theory in all these years, and Brother Body seems to me much the inferior partner. I think all that I have written is still true but I would emphasise habit and so on less. Child mind - nb, because a child has a much mind as the rest of us.

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letters to Mrs. Franklin
1897 - 1922.

Copenhagen
1897.

I enjoyed Holland with its many street pictures as well as its pictures in galleries. I think the Dutch have that saving grace of humour which I seem to miss among these profoundly serious and most excellent Danes. Of the various cities we have visited, I think Lübeck delighted me most, with its quaint Greek Gothic and its Memling pictures. . . . We have met nobody very interesting but then the hour for Dutch Table d'Hôte appears to be from four to seven, so we could not give up the afternoon to eating our dinner. We are in a small pension here; in spite of the American visitors, it is a genuine Danish interior, beautiful Danish embroideries, chiefly in two shades of blue on the table and elsewhere, blue Danish china to match, beautiful brass teapots and coffee pots and urns; most notable house-wifely arrangements in every way and much Danish talk, always in a rather sad monotone. The air here is a luxury, so elastic and delicious and the sea and the big ships within ten minutes of us. . . .

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We must not be swamped by "women workers". We are not women workers; our society much more important because with definite aims: They a mere collection of units destined not to live: Socialistic society of Maurice Kingsley swamped in this way: jointed British Association as "Group T", in consequence, do nothing.

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1911.

About my paper - by all means print it as a pamphlet - a good deal of it has been said before however, but I wanted to bring it under the idea of a person. If, and if, and if - I have a notion that I shall write a paper on each point of the Synopsis but don't hurry me, Lady A. Don't say with an air as if you were talking to a refractory "tweenie," "Write So and So." I suppose previous publication as a pamphlet would not interfere with a final book.

(This is the first mention of C.M.M.'s last book "The Essay" published 1923, begun in 1920).

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1912.

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K9FX.

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i4p19omc309

convinced and I think neither was he by the time the lecture was over, though I listened politely! However I had said a few things before.

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I have just been reviewing books - a horrid labour.

(Saviour of the World)

Do you mind my asking you to read again Vol. II of the little red books pp. 71-76 and Vol. III pp. 106-117. I have tried to say there in a very crude way something of what I mean. (I know you too receive Jesus as "a teacher sent from God" and that is all the argument requires). But I want to tell you why I feel I must go on living as long as I am allowed. I do not look for anything in the way of punishment or reward or compensation more than of the sort I get here - with the one vast exception of "life more abounding," that is, I think God-knowledge, God consciousness.

But there will be there

So much to do
So much to know
So much to see
So much to love

At the present time people can only see, know, do, love, as they are prepared, and I have a notion we have to begin the things in the flesh. We shall go on with it in the spirit. All the people we shall meet we ought to know, realise, first, all the flowers in the world - all the stars in the universe (and I know no astronomy to speak of!) Of course "His servants shall serve Him" always in all manners and we don't know which is first or last of the ways, you remember Browning's Lazarus, how intensely insignificant things attracted him.

I shouldn't wonder if this is the sort of Gospel our age is waiting for and we are so sick waiting that we play like tired children at a fair.

January 1916.

At last the wind has abated and "Richard's himself again" and I am doing things and first writing to you to wish you great blessings in the New Year, chiefly what I ~~wish~~ wish mostly for myself, "Increase in the knowledge of God."

August 1916.

I have had rather a bad time here and a very busy one largely about that "plan of campaign" of which Miss Parish has written to you fully She was able, too, to tell me your mind about it all so that I feel we are united for a great effort which is laid upon us because we are the only people who are able to give what the country is crying for.

November 1916.

How I long for you to see Drighlington etc. Fancy Miss Ambler has had 47 visitors since the summer.

January 1917.

Next about the Conference programme - I think we may as well lie low while we have this big thing in hand. We want to have all our energies at command. What we want to do now is to impress each of our Branches and all the old students with the sense that they are Stewards of Education in their several neighbourhoods. We shall think out ways and means by and bye.

March 1917.

There are two things we want for the college and school - one: that the College Certificate should be recognised for elementary schools. I know some of our students would long to teach in them, though alas we are at our wits end to supply the family demand - indeed we can't do it.

The other thing we want is the recognition of our Final V or VI form exam as qualifying for the entrance to training for certain professions - but these two can wait. This work is a great happiness and relief, is it not?

January 1918.

As a reformer, I am a free lance, tacitly opposed to things as they are. . . . (comparing the College with others), (Criticisms) come from the difference between a Training College and others - those that you mention do not profess to train.

January 1918.

Some day we hope to see each P.N.E.U. Branch a sort of centre for the spiritual (including intellectual) profit of all classes in its neighbourhood.

September 1918. Alluding to the ^{qualifications for} Entrance ~~for~~ to the House of Education.

- We should lose many of our best students by doing so - for instance, half our present students have passed some exam and the other half have not and the latter are much the better students. These exams mean cram and leave the students drained out.

August 1919.

Fairfield View
- We have been sorely distressed re house-room and I have had to buy Fairfield and the next house to secure a place, and this after all the lean years of the war. You will like to know that the College is full for next year.

1921.

"Heaps of elementary children doing such good work."

"Did I tell you how much I rejoice over our first County School Parents' Branch?"

1922.

What a time you had among the Alpine flowers! I know something of the joy of it for many years ago before you were born or thought of, I spent some early spring weeks at the Kaltbad (Rigi) with some friends. After forty years I see and smell and luxuriate - but I did not see the Soldanella . . .

Science has done nothing to confirm the "rut" theory in all these years, and Brother Body seems to me much the inferior partner. I think all that I have written is still true but I would emphasise habit and so on less. Child mind - nd, because a child has a much mind as the rest of us.